

# *Marah macrocarpus*

## Wild Cucumber, Manroot

VINE - deciduous.  
Dies back to very large root.  
3 - 25' long stems.  
Sprawls over ground and shrubs.  
Large, bright green leaves.  
Creamy flowers - January to April.  
Large green fruit with prickles that  
turn brown, hard and spiny as  
fruit dries.

Native habitat: coastal sage scrub,  
chaparral, southern oak wood-  
land - dry places mostly below  
3000' in Southern California and  
Baja California.

Full sun to part shade.  
Frost resistant.

Seeds polished and used in jewelry.  
No edible parts.



Photographs by Margaret L. Fillius

